



Environmentally Preferable Purchasing for Municipal Agencies

OTA Fact Sheet

Introduction

The Office of Technical Assistance (OTA), through a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency, funded nine departments of public works (DPW) throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to purchase environmentally preferable products/services for use in their daily operations. The goal of the grant was to determine if these environmentally preferable products/services were an improvement from what towns use in their existing operations. Each of the DPWs were surveyed about the benefits and costs of the product or service they purchased with the grant money, and if they would recommend the product or service to other cities and towns. The comments provided below are based on the results of the survey.

Products

- Alternative Parts Washer - *Peabody, North Reading, Hamilton, Egremont*
- Calcium Chloride Flakes - *Orleans*
- Oil Analysis - *Burlington, Sandwich*
- No-Drip Pumps For Fluid Dispensing – *Middlefield*
- Vehicle Wash Water Recycling Pump - *Florida*

Overall Results

\$10,520.00 was distributed to nine communities, which mostly helped DPWs improve their recycling efforts. The communities that participated, especially those that purchased alternative parts washers and vehicle wash water recyclers, cited reductions, especially in water and solvent usage. The equipment purchased also led to improved efficiency, reduced maintenance and associated costs, and increased safety for municipal employees. Some examples: reductions in water and solvent use due to the increase in recycling; calcium chloride worked better than road salt, especially in colder weather; the no-drip pump prevented oil loss and saved maintenance time; and less hazardous materials are now used to clean equipment, which improved safety for employees. Some of the equipment was purchased to comply with environmental regulations, the alternative parts washer and vehicle wash water recycling pump are examples of this. All of the communities that were surveyed would recommend the product or service they used to other DPW's.

Benefits

Alternative Parts Washer

- Enabled regulatory compliance
- Recycled water instead of disposing contaminated water, which led to savings and reduced water use
- Improved efficiency
- Helped eliminate/reduce solvent use
- Improved safety
- Realized savings by using recycled solvent instead of purchasing new solvents
- Lowered maintenance costs (time and money) as the unit was self-cleaning
- Reduced exposure to hazardous materials
- Increased life of parts

No-Drip Pumps For Fluid Dispensing

- Easier and safer to maintain and use, which led to increased operating efficiencies
- Prevented oil loss

Calcium Chloride Flakes

- Acceptable alternative to salt
- Works well in cold weather
- Costs less than liquid version and does not require additional equipment (tanks, pumps, & sprayer)

Oil Analysis

- Allowed the town to develop a preventive maintenance plan
- Increased fuel efficiency
- Improved operations
- Helped determine oil change interval

Vehicle Wash Water Recycling Pump

- Less water usage (reduced by 67%)
- Enabled regulatory compliance

Costs

Alternative Parts Washer

- Some towns achieved financial savings from reduced solvent purchases and others incurred no extra costs

No-Drip Pumps For Fluid Dispensing

- Additional \$150 in maintenance costs that was partially offset by maintenance time saved and reduced oil purchases

Calcium Chloride Flakes

- No additional costs incurred

Oil Analysis

- No additional costs incurred

Vehicle Wash Water Recycling Pump

- Additional purchase of an oil/water separator was needed

Recommendations

Alternative Parts Washer

“Achieves environmental goals while saving money” – North Reading

“Safer than previous method of parts washing” - Egremont

Calcium Chloride Flakes

“Excellent replacement for road salt” - Orleans

Oil Analysis

“Vendor was very good although their follow up with the town was poor.” - Burlington

“Vendor helped a town determine proper oil change intervals.” - Sandwich

Vehicle Wash Water Recycling Pump

“Excellent replacement for previous pump, though maintenance can be a burden” - Florida

No-Drip Pumps For Fluid Dispensing

“The equipment is recommended to other DPW’s.” - Middlefield

Thank You to the Following Participating Communities

Burlington DPW (781) 270-1670	Egremont DPW (413) 528-1106	Florida DPW (413) 664-6274	Hamilton DPW (978) 468-5580	Middlefield DPW (413) 623-5532
Peabody DPW (508) 536-0600	North Reading DPW (978) 664-6001	Orleans DPW (508) 240-3790	Sandwich DPW (508) 833-8002	

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